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THE CHINESE COMMUNIST OFF-SHORE ISLAND CAMPAIGN

A. The Current Situation

1. Chinese Communist forces have captured 13 Chinese Nationalists islands off Chekiang coast since 29 May. They now threaten Pishan and the Tachen Islands. Events suggest that the invasion of Pishan and the Tachens is now being planned:
 - a. Pishan and Tachens have undergone periodic shelling from 1 to 30 June;
 - b. Chinese Communist junk and shipping activity continuing.

B. Chinese Communist strength and capabilities in the area:

1. About 6 Chinese Communist armies, 180,000 men are stationed in the two provinces nearest these islands. About 14 armies, 420,000 men are located in East China;
2. Chinese Communist forces can capture all of the islands in this area as soon as Peiping chooses to make the transportation available. MIG-15 air support is available in the area if needed.

C. Chinese Nationalist strength and capabilities in the area:

1. Approximately 7,000 Nationalist troops now stationed on the Tachens. Ministry of National Defense decided to send a 5,000 man division to the island;
2. Nationalist forces probably cannot hold these islands against a sustained Chinese Communist attack.

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E. Other Off-shore Islands

1. Matsu, south of Tachens, 30 miles off Fukien coast, now held by 5000 troops.
 - a. No military activity noted since last August.
2. Chinmen Island (Quemoy) now occupied by 50,000 Nationalist troops. No military activity recently reported. Shelling from Amoy reported several times within year.

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